



Give Thanks to God for Our Blessings

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe to represent the missions and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

Leader: This month, we pause to give thanks for all our blessings. Sometimes, we think of the larger gifts and miss the chance to say thank you to God for the little things in life for which we are grateful. In today's reading, Saint Paul reminds us that when we let the peace of Jesus enter our hearts, He will remind us to live a life of gratitude to God the Father. Let's listen to the reading and then pause. Think about whether or not what we say and do helps to show those around us that we love Jesus, want to show Him to the world, and want to live forever with our Father in heaven.

Reader 1: *A Reading from the Letters of Saint Paul to the Colossians:*

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks Be to God.

Pause for silent reflection.

Reader 2: In our schools, parishes, and homes, we can use our words and actions to show others that we are thankful to be on a path with Jesus that will lead us to God, our Father, in heaven. May our support of the missions remind us that many children need our daily help, not only to receive the blessings we may take for granted, but so that they may learn about the path to heaven, too!

Reader 1: Our response is: **We give thanks to God for our blessings!**

Reader 2: Every day, we are able to turn on a tap in a bathroom or kitchen and fill a glass of water that is safe to drink. We pray for gratitude for that gift while we reach out in prayerful sacrifice to the children of the world who have no access to clean water.

All: We give thanks to God for our blessings!

Reader 1: In the morning before school, we choose from a variety of shoes—do we need sneakers for gym or boots for the snow? We ask you Lord to help us remember those children who walk miles with no shoes at all. Let us be thankful for the abundance of choice we find in our own drawers and closets.

All: We give thanks to God for our blessings!

Reader 2: Our school is filled with so many different people—boys and girls with different abilities in many subjects and sports. We pray for the grace to remember that each of us was made by You, in Your image, and to make our schools a better reflection of You. Help us to reach out to children in the missions who may never get a chance to attend school. Let us be thankful for the uniqueness of Your creation!

All: We give thanks to God for our blessings!

Reader 1: Sometimes, Lord, the meal we are served is not to our liking and we grumble at what we must eat. We ask you Lord to help us remember that all over the world, there are children who will not eat today. Let us be thankful for our food, even when it is not our favorite.

All: We give thanks to God for our blessings!

Leader: For what are we grateful today?

(Pause to allow for participants to voice their gratitude)

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have given us many gifts, asking only that we share them with those who have less than we do. We know that You want nothing more than for us to follow You on a path to Your Father in heaven! We ask for Your Mother's help as we pray:

All: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.